# The Daily Argus Extracts

The Daily Argus

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# 1844

## October 1844

[CD-ROM Editor's Note: The following newspaper articles reporting on the events of October 22, 1844 were supplied by Lynda Foster, courtesy of the Portland, Maine Public Library, Portland, Maine]

**Portland, Maine.**

## Tuesday, October 22, 1844

### "The Miller Epoch"

No Authorcode

This is the day, big with the fate of (not Caesar and of Rome but of) Father Miller and Elder Himes. The 10th of October, (which is the 22nd of the Jewish 7th month, according to the cyphering of the Miller mathematicians) is the day when the great catastrophe will come, on which hang all their hopes. This is the day.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.1*

It is fortunate that these deluded men have fixed their point so near. Having disappointed their patient followers several times, many have left them, but many still cling to them. After today, Messrs. Miller, Himes, Snow, Bliss, Storrs and others, it seems to us, cannot put on a face still to predict. If they do, who will believe them! This being the case, we rejoice that the time on which all their hopes hang, has come. Honest people are deluded, and are wasting their substance, the peace of their families, and some their own lives even, under this fanatical excitement. They will return to their senses, after today, we trust, and become again good members of Society - trusting in the word of God, and not in the word of fallible man.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.2*

To show our readers how positive are the leaders in this wicked farce, we append an extract or two:*DAAR October 1844, page 1.3*

Geo. Starr writes in the last Advent Herald, that he believes the time of the Advent is the tenth day of the Jewish seventh month, the 22nd day of this month. Elder Himes, in his letter of last week, speaks equally certainly of the event. He says:- 'Beyond a doubt in my mind, the tenth day of the seventh month will witness the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven. We are then within a few days of that event. Awful moment to those who are unprepared - but glorious to those who are ready. I feel that I am making the last appeal that I shall ever make through the press. My heart is full.'*DAAR October 1844, page 1.4*

The editor of the Advent Herald thus speaks on the same subject:*DAAR October 1844, page 1.5*

‘As the date of the present number of the Herald is our last day of publication before the tenth day of the seventh month, we shall make no provision for issuing a paper for the week following.’*DAAR October 1844, page 1.6*

P.S. Millerites Rejoice! - Since preparing the above we have received the New York Evening Post which says - A correspondent says: ‘We learn from unexceptionable authority, an aged Jewish gentleman who holds a very responsible situation in one of the synagogues of this city, according to Jewish computation, is already past. It was the 22nd of September last, and was celebrated by Jews throughout the world, as the great day of atonement, one of their high festivals.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.7*

We trust that this statement will allay the apprehensions of those who have been driven to the verge of madness, by the audacious, not to say impious prognostications of Father Miller, Mr. Storrs and their co-adjutators.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.8*

A custom house officer in New York has resigned his office in consequence of his belief that the world is to end tomorrow, the 22nd. There is no doubt but this man is sincere.’”*DAAR October 1844, page 1.9*

**From the New Hampshire Patriot**

No Authorcode

MILLERISM - Last week, the Secretary of State received per mail franked Wm. S. Hershey PM., Melvin Village, N.H. and Hershey’s commission as Justice of the Peace with the following communication to the secretary:*DAAR October 1844, page 1.10*

‘I believe the Lord will come on this seventh month of this sacred year; therefore I do not wish to remain Justice of the Peace any longer.’ Wm. S. Hershey*DAAR October 1844, page 1.11*

Another. The Secretary of State has also received the following

from Elphonzo G. Colby of Wakefield.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.12*

‘Dear Sir - Enclosed is my commission as Justice of the Peace, which I have no further use for, believing as I do beyond a doubt that the Lord is coming on the 10th day of the seventh Jewish sacred month 1844. Sep. 11th 1844. E.G.Colby*DAAR October 1844, page 1.13*

## Thursday, October 24, 1844

### Millerism

No Authorcode

The Newburyport Courier states that on Saturday last, the following notice was posted on the door of one of the dry goods stores in that town:*DAAR October 1844, page 1.14*

"Believing as I most sincerely do, that the Lord Jesus Christ will, in a few days, come in the clouds of heaven, I retire from this shop; as I am determined, God being my helper, that my works shall correspond with my faith."*DAAR October 1844, page 1.15*

Saturday afternoon, October 12 1844*DAAR October 1844, page 1.16*

Quite an excitement was created by such a public notice of practical belief in the world's speedy dissolution, and a crowd was seen for some time about the door. On Monday morning, a little later than usual, the store was again opened, and business going on as usual, under the personal direction of the same proprietor who had so recently closed it.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.17*

In Boston, on Monday, a warrant was granted on application, by the Municipal Court, to convey Mrs. Abigail Shephard, a young married woman, to the Worcester Insane Hospital. It appeared that she had been listening to the Miller doctrines, and had become perfectly demented.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.18*

The Millerites report that a woman named Matthweson, in South Coventry, Connecticut, has returned from the grave having been 'told by her Saviour to come back to the earth,' and warn the people that 'the time is short,' which she does daily, and during the night holds conversations with angels whose celestial forms encompass her bed.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.19*

The Millerites Last Sabbath*DAAR October 1844, page 1.20*

The New York Morning News thus records the doings of the

Millerites on Sunday.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.21*

They assembled for worship in the old Franklin Theater in the afternoon, surrounded by thousands who amused themselves with the frightful contortions and frantic exclamations of the worshippers. Some apprehensions of a breach of the peace were felt by some of our citizens, under circumstances so well calculated to excite all the passions of the human heart, and Mayor Harper, assisted by some of the Police Justices and Police Officers, interfered and caused the churches of the Millerites to be closed.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.22*

In the afternoon the Mayor resorted to a ruse to draw the crowd from the Franklin Theater. The crowd was dense in front of the theater, but as the Millerites retired the multitude opened that they might run the gauntlet of the 'wicked' and receive their farewell benedictions, which were given with scorn or laughter, according to the sex of the departing disciple. Some murmurs, however were heard, which betokened an uncharitable feeling towards those who by many are looked upon as the crafty leaders in the delusion of Millerism, but the Mayor's invention was equal to the emergency and he avoided the commission of any outrage by a 'pious fraud.'*DAAR October 1844, page 1.23*

Rushing into the theater with an expression of countenance which gave assurance of the enforcement of rigid justice, the crowd deemed themselves surely avenged; but when the Mayor returned with a 'prisoner' on his arm, who was closely muffled in a capacious cloak, that Old Miller himself was his prisoner none doubted, and with respect to the ministers of justice, they first gave way for an unobstructed passage to the Police office, and then followed, to the number of seven thousands, to see the prophet securely entombed.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.24*

The mayor safely arrived with his charge, and every eye was strained, and every face of humanity of those untold thousands was elongated to an unnatural extension, to get a glimpse of the author of so much commotion - the cloak was unclasped - its ample folds were outspread, and to the gaze of those o'erstrained eyes was presented - Mr. Justice Drinker! - Some stared with astonishment,

others recovering from their surprise, laughed;*DAAR October 1844, page 1.25*

“Capitally done, Mr.Mayor,” exclaimed others, and the whole was terminated by the crowd giving nine hearty cheers for the mayor who had thus dispersed them in good humor.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.26*

In the evening, the Franklin Theater, and the church at the junction of Christy and Delaney Streets, were surrounded for several hours in the expectation of their being opened, but that expectation was disappointed.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.27*

The “Midnight Cry” relates the following remarkable humbug:*DAAR October 1844, page 1.28*

‘In the town of Plymouth, Conn., at the hose of Brother Atwater, in a social meeting, a brother lost his strength - lay prostrate on the floor before the fire. The fire was not burning up, but there was a good bed of coals. The tops of the andirons were so hot, no one could bear their hands on them. As he lay directly before the fire, without moving his body, he seemed drawn by an unseen power directly into the fire. His head and shoulders were planted directly in this bed of coals. His head went back to the back of the chimney; he lay in this situation for about half an hour. While there, one or two came up and examined him, and found that God was taking the matter into His won hands, and did not interfere. While the coals presented the appearance of being blown on by bellows - sparks flying around his head - the andiron, against which his cheek lay, was hot enough to hiss. After lying there for the specified time, he was drawn out in the same manner as he was drawn in. Many examine him, and not even a hair of his head was singed, or even the smell of fire upon him. As this is so strange a work. I deem it necessary to be established by two or three eye witnesses.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.29*

**Friday, October 25, 1844**

“The Millerites of Newark, New Jersey assembled on Monday last, on the bank of the Passaio, between the two bridges, to witness the baptism of some 20 or 25 converts to their faith, there being about an equal number of each sex. The ceremony was administered by L.D. Fleming in presence of an immense congregation. The form is similar to that used in other cases. On emerging from the water some of them clapped their hands with expressions of joy, which they continued till they reached the shore. Among the persons baptized, we hear, is a school teacher of N who has given up his school.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.30*

Dr. Haley, Dentist, of Charlestown, (says the Aurora), having faith in the doctrine that the world is soon to come an end, has stopped his advertisement in this paper and given up business. He has gone to visit some friends in Maine and does not expect to return here any more.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.31*

Horrid - On Tuesday last, a respectable citizen in Pleasant Street, Boston, cut his throat, but not dangerously. He had become insane by means of the Miller Delusion. He was taken to the Insane Hospital at Worcester, in company with Mrs.Shepard, the lady alluded to the other day.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.32*

The Millerites - A part of these unfortunate and misguided people pitched their tents on Monday in a field belonging to Isaac V...*DAAR October 1844, page 1.33*

We are informed that the Miller excitement is doing its worst among people in the lower part of New Hampshire. In Kingston, Mr. A.N.Brown, publisher and printer, has become entirely insane. His brother, carried away by the delusion, has given up everything like work believing it to be clinging to this world’s things. A few days since he was about hauling a load of corn from his fields, when, seized suddenly with the above idea, he fell upon his knees and prayed to God to direct him how to act - whether to carry the corn to the barn or leave it in the field - the decision was in favor of the latter course, and it was accordingly dropped for the benefit of the cattle. The believers of the pernicious doctrine in that section,

generally, have almost entirely neglected to provide for future wants - apples are rotting on the trees, and crops in the fields remain unharvested. In Newington, likewise, the fanaticism has made alarming progress. We have yet to learn how far the expiration of the Miller “chronology” goes towards restoring these deluded people to their reason (Boston Post)*DAAR October 1844, page 1.34*

**Another Millerite**

No Authorcode

A young man by the name of Kelp, about 18 or 19 years of age, committed suicide on Friday by throwing himself into the Niagara river at Black Rock. He had been for some time infatuated with the Millerite delusion, and for the last two or three days so completely insane that it was found necessary to confine him in the house.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.35*

By some means he broke out and started off in the direction of Black Rock. His father immediately missed and pursued him, but found it impossible to overtake him before he reached the river, into which he instantly threw himself and was drowned. - The distance from the house to the river cannot be less than three and a half or four miles, and this whole distance he ran through the woods and fields, followed by his afflicted father, who vainly struggled to overtake him.”*DAAR October 1844, page 1.36*

**Saturday, October 26, 1844**

The Property of Millerites - Disappointed.- In some places, says the Baltimore Clipper, the followers of Miller have sold property at a nominal price, which will probably cause litigation hereafter, as the question will no doubt arise, whether such persons were, at the time of conveying the property, in a condition of mind to make a valid deed. We doubt whether the courts will hold deeds to be legal where it is shown that they been executed in a state of mental delusion. It is certain that no honest man would take advantage of such delusion to obtain property at less than its value.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.37*

The Baltimore American has the following - "We are informed that nearly all the persons who have visited this city as preachers of the Millerite doctrine, contending that the world will be destroyed Wednesday the 23rd inst, took their departure yesterday morning. The amount of money gathered from their disciples must have ben considerable, inasmuch as about seven hundred dollars were paid for the rent of one room in which the meetings were held."*DAAR October 1844, page 1.38*

Lamentable - Moses Clark of Landaff, (says the New Hampshire Patriot), committed suicide by drowning about a week since. A man of good sense and well informed, he yet fell into the miserable delusion of Millerism, and reason was ousted from her throne. He was highly respected in his town, and so well esteemed in Grafton County as to have been elected Chairman of The Board of Commissioners. He was a representative from Landaff to the Legislature, for the two years previous to the present year, and was a very useful, careful, and well informed member.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.39*

On Thursday morning two small children were found in the Millerite encampment near Philadelphia, perfectly stiff, cold and dead. Many grown persons were suffering severely, and many females were forced away with the object of saving their lives!*DAAR October 1844, page 1.40*

"Brother Himes" - The Boston Post says - A correspondent has

furnished us with some facts illustrating the selfishness of the leaders of the second adventists. The wife of an aged colored man has given $2,000 to the cause, and left her family poor. A grocer on Pleasant Street disposed of about $500 in the same way, and a carpenter on the Fremont Road gave a like amount - all he had. Himes, it is said, has disposed of considerable quantities of old jewelry and silver - “contributions” - at different stores in the city where they deal in such articles. Several women who kept boarding houses have been induced to dismiss their former lodgers and take in second adventists, free of cost, and have thereby greatly embarrassed, if not completely ruined themselves, in a pecuniary point of view. It is said that Himes preached somewhere in the city last Sunday; but he and his followers are very secret about their places of meeting. The public indignation is so much excited against Himes that we think it would not be prudent for him to give a general notice of his movements.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.41*

## Monday, October 28 1844

### The End of The World—Millerism

No Authorcode

The amount of human suffering caused already by the Millerite delusion, and its probable prospective increase from the neglect of business, is almost incredible. Intemperance in the use of ardent spirits has scarcely produced as much mischief during the last half year. Everywhere the votaries of this delusion are abandoning their harvests to be destroyed by the elements in the coming winter. In Poland in this county, we hear that one of the selectmen has abandoned his crops to destruction, with some 30 or 40 of his neighbors. The other selectmen have taken the matter in hand and are harvesting the neglected fields of such as would have become a town charge if neglected. This delusion extends into every part of the Union, and embraces in its terrible jaws of self-neglect, thousands of our most humble and useful laborers.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.42*

It is not a little remarkable that so many honest and sincere believers in the Christian Scriptures should be caught in this snare, when these very scriptures, for whose authority they express so much respect, and from which they profess to draw evidence of the precise time this material world will end, should entirely overlook the positive declaration of Christ - that*DAAR October 1844, page 1.43*

“Of that day and hour knoweth no man-*DAAR October 1844, page 1.44*

No not the Son, but the Father only.”*DAAR October 1844, page 1.45*

We trust, however, that this delusion has now passed its meridian, and is on the decline. We hope and trust that it will not leave in its train the blight of infidelity. Men are very apt to go from one extreme to another, and there is danger, unless guarded against by the timely admissions of the judicious and thinking portions of that Christian community, that the Miller delusion may members of its

most honest and after the gloomy rejection of all belief in the scriptures, and all faith in God and a future life.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.46*

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The property of Millerites - Disappointed -*DAAR October 1844, page 1.47*

In some places, says the Baltimore Clipper, the followers of Miller have sold property at the original price, which will probably cause litigation hereafter, as the question will no doubt arise, whether such persons were, at the time of conveying the property, in a condition of mind to make a valid deed. We doubt whether the courts will hold deeds to be legal where it is shown that they have been executed in a state of mental delusion. It is certain that no honest man would take advantage of such delusion to obtain property at less than its value.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.48*

Elder Himes - The Boston Times says - “We met Elder Himes in Washington Street, yesterday, looking as sleek and nice as he did before the ending of the world last Tuesday.*DAAR October 1844, page 1.49*

A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE PRINCIPLE - Some of the followers of M Miller in this region are teaching that no man can be saved unless he sells all his property and gives the proceeds to the poor. Now we do not think there is any special danger of the very extensive prevalence of this error. The great danger is on the other side. The great danger is that men will hold too loosely to their property and be too unmindful of the past...*DAAR October 1844, page 1.50*

## November 1844

### Tuesday, November 5, 1844

Millerism Rejected*DAAR November 1844, page 1.51*

By the following from the New York Commercial of Friday, it appears that Brothers Himes and Storrs have at last given up Millerism as a delusion.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.52*

On Tuesday evening in the Millerite Church on the corner of Christie and Delaney Streets, Mr. Storrs publicly recanted his egregious folly and madness in the matter of the second advent. He said, what others beside his congregation had already found out, he was deceived as to the day of the second advent. He said he had been led astray by excitement and deceived by mesmerism and now most penitently acknowledged his manifold sins and wickedness. He now exhorted them to stick to work etc.,*DAAR November 1844, page 1.53*

Himes next took the stand in the confessional, and forgetting, we suppose, that he had been both the deceived and the deceiver, rated the people pretty harshly for their infatuation, and urged them all to go home and go to work, and stepped down from the rostrum. Storrs has also acknowledged his error in the Midnight Cry, but we do not remember seeing anything there about mesmerism.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.54*

(Someone else must have been mistaken for Elder Himes, as he was in this city on Wednesday last.)*DAAR November 1844, page 1.55*

**Thursday, November 7, 1844**

Elder Himes has published in the Boston Post of Saturday last, a refutation of the following charges brought against him in the papers lately, viz:*DAAR November 1844, page 1.56*

1. That the wife of a colored man has given to the cause $2,000, leaving her family poor.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.57*

2. That a grocer on Pleasant Street has disposed of $500 in the same way.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.58*

3. That a carpenter on Trennant Road had given a like amount - all he had.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.59*

4. That he - Himes - disposed of considerable quantities of old jewelry in different states.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.60*

5. That several women (owning?) boarding houses have been (forced) to dismiss their lodgers, to their embarrassment, if not ruin.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.61*

6. That we are secretive about our places of meeting.*DAAR November 1844, page 1.62*

The remainder of Himes's response is largely indecipherable, with just fragments being readable:*DAAR November 1844, page 1.63*

"To show the groundlessness of these charges, Mr. Himes published several letters ... in which the first five changes are shown to be untrue, and the record unjust to Mr. Himes." There follows comment indicating that he presented evidence that his business dealings were fair and open, with receipts for donations. "Friends have been very generous in their assistance." He gave evidence of open meetings, and commented further that "In relation to the reports so generally circulated by the press...of insanity, suicides and the breaking up of families, with poverty...we know from personal observation, and an extensive correspondence, that they are, most of them, unfounded."*DAAR November 1844, page 1.64*